

INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

INCREASING THE LEGITIMACY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS

12 JANUARY 2023
1 PM – 4:30 PM (CET)

Bilingual event (French / English)
with simultaneous interpretation

Registration compulsory at
<https://cutt.ly/yM1zaQA>



Illustration, Odélia Kammoun

Welcome remarks by **Prof. Christine Chinkin**, Executive Chair of ILA and **Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler**, Attorney (Geneva) and President of ADI/ILA 2023 Ambassadors' Circle

This is the first of a series of webinars scheduled to take place throughout 2023 to mark the 150th anniversary of the International Law Association (ILA).

Co-organized by the ILA and Parliamentarians for Global Action, this inaugural event will question the role of parliaments in the creation of international law and discuss proposed transformations in the current system for increased accountability, inclusivity, and legitimacy.

Chaired by **Prof. Philippe Sands**, Professor of Law (University College London) and Barrister and **Prof. Michael Hahn**, Professor of Law (University of Bern)

Keynote speaker **Hon. Millie Grace Odhiambo**, Member of Parliament, Kenya

Speakers **Esther Cuesta Santana**, Member of Parliament, Ecuador

Emilie Béatrice Epaye, Educator and politician, Central African Republic

Irwin Cotler, Former Attorney General and Ministry of Justice of Canada

Heidi Hautala, Vice-President of the European Parliament

Hon. Shwe Maung, Former Member of Parliament, Myanmar

Concluding remarks by Parliamentarians for Global Action

Chairs



Philippe Sands, QC (UK) is Professor of Law at University College London and Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. He is a practising barrister at 11 King's Bench Walk and appears as counsel before the International Court of Justice and other international courts and tribunals. He sits as an arbitrator in international investment disputes and the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

He is author of *Lawless World* (2005) and *Torture Team* (2008) and numerous academic books on international law, and has contributed to the *New York Review of Books*, *Vanity Fair*, the *Financial Times*, *The Guardian* and the *New York Times*. His most recent books are *East West Street: On the Origins of Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide* (2016) (awarded the 2016 Baillie Gifford Prize, the 2017 British Book Awards Non-Fiction Book of the Year, and the 2018 Prix Montaigne) and *The Ratline: Love, Lies and Justice on the Trail of a Nazi Fugitive* (2020). His latest book is *The Last Colony: A Tale of Exile, Justice and Britain's Colonial Legacy* (2022).

Prof. Sands is President of English PEN and a member of the Board of the Hay Festival of Arts and Literature.

Michael Hahn (Switzerland) is Professor of Law at the University of Bern, Managing Director of its Institute of European and International Economic Law and a Director at its World Trade Institute; he is also an Honorary Professor at the University of Waikato School of Law in New Zealand and an adjunct professor at Saarland University in Germany. He has been a Visiting Professor at several universities including the Universities of Bonn, Chile (Santiago), Lyon II, New South Wales, Paris V and the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

Prof. Hahn holds degrees from the University of Heidelberg and the University of Michigan Law School and teaches, researches and consults on international trade law, Swiss-EU bilateral relations and EU external relations law.

He is on the editorial boards of several law journals and has been nominated, inter alia, for the lists of arbitrators for CETA, CPTPP, the SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement, the TCA, the MERCOSUR – SACU PTA and the FTA Perú-U.K.



Keynote speaker



Millie Grace Odhiambo (Kenya) has been a Kenyan politician member of the center-left political party, the Orange Democratic Movement of the Kenyan parliament, since 2008. She first trained as a lawyer, practicing civil litigation in the Attorney General's Office before moving on to human rights law. She is very active on the issues of women and children's rights: she served as chairperson of the Coalition on Violence Against Women-Kenya in 1999 and founded and co-chaired the CRADLE Children's Foundation, an organization advocating for the improvement of children's rights within the Kenyan legal system from 2000 to 2008. In 2001, she contributed to the development of the Optional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on Women's Rights in Africa.

She has worked nationally, regionally, and internationally and consulted widely as an expert for the Government of Kenya, and UN agencies, including UNICEF, UNDP, UNODC, and WHO, among others. She is the leading woman MP in the legislative agenda by sponsoring the highest number of private Member's Bills in Parliament. As a Member of the Pan African Parliament since 2013, Millie has contributed to several motions on governance, human rights, women's, and children's rights in Africa.

Speakers

Irwin Cotler (Canada) is a former member of the Canadian Parliament and international human rights lawyer.

During his career, he served as Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada from 2003 to 2006, where he pushed forward the first-ever comprehensive reform of the Supreme Court and initiated the first prosecution for the genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda under Canada's Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act, among other initiatives.

Prof. Cotler has also been active on the anti-discrimination forefront, tabling Canada's first National Justice Initiative Against Racism and National Action Plan Against Racism. He is an Emeritus Professor at McGill University, a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, and Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Yale Law School. He is the founder and international chair of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights.



Esther Cuesta Santana (Ecuador) is an Ecuadorian politician and a member of the National Assembly and Unity for Hope Party. She earned graduate, master's, and doctoral degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2002, 2009, and 2015, respectively. She was Consul and then Consul General of Ecuador in Genoa-Italy, from December 2009 to April 2015. She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Vice Minister of Human Mobility in 2016. She put herself forward as a candidate for the National Assembly and was elected in February 2017 to represent the 800,000 Ecuadorian migrants in Europe, Asia, and Oceania.

From 2017 to 2019, she was vice-president of the Commission for Sovereignty, Integration, International Relations, and Integral Security. She is the current president of the Italian-Ecuadorian Parliamentary Group. Ms. Cuesta Santana has advocated for the rights of migrants, ethnic, religious, gender, and sexual minorities, and underprivileged sectors of society.



Emilie Béatrice Epaye (CAR) is an educator and politician in the Central African Republic. She has been a member of the National Assembly since 2005, notably as President of the Foreign Affairs Commission. She was also a member of the National Transitional Council, was appointed Minister of Commerce, Industry and Small and Medium Enterprises and then Minister of Commerce and Industry.

From 2003 to 2005, she was a member of the Interparliamentary Commission of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) and then Vice President of the CEMAC Parliament until 2021. She chaired the African Intellectual Property Organization in 2008 and piloted the first African Conference on Intellectual Property in Dakar. She also served on the Council of Ministers of the Economic Union of Central Africa (UEAC). A recognized leader in the promotion of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, she chaired the Preparatory Commission of the Bangui Forum for Reconciliation in the Central African Republic. She was awarded the International Women of Courage Award by the U.S. State Department in 2015.

Heidi Hautala (Brussels) is a Finnish politician, starting her career as the leader of the Finnish Green Party. She has been a member of the European Parliament from 1995 to 2003, from 2009 to 2011, and from 2019 onwards. Between 1998 and 1999, she served as chair of the Committee on Women's Rights. She later led the Greens-European Free Alliance in the European Parliament from 1999 to 2002, alongside Paul Lannoye.

In 2001, she successfully took the Council of the European Union to the European Court of Justice over access to a document on arms export rules. Her case set a precedent in European law for access to documentation. In 2009, Hautala was re-elected to the European Parliament, where she served as chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights and as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Ms. Hautala got re-elected to the European Parliament in 2019. She served this term as a Member of the Committee on International Trade (INTA) and the Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI). She also serves as a Substitute Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI). In addition, Ms. Hautala participates as a Member of the Delegation for relations with the countries of Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ASEAN.

She was appointed vice president of the European Parliament from 2017 to 2019 and again in 2019. Ms. Hautala has been strongly involved in initiatives concerning Human Rights openness, global justice, and environmentally responsible legislation. She is also the founder of the European Parliament working group for Responsible Business Conduct.



Shwe Maung (Myanmar) is a Rohingya activist who served as a member of the Myanmar parliament from 2011 to 2016.

As a former member of the Union Solidarity and Development Party, Hon. Maung has been calling upon reconciliation in the Rakhine State and denouncing the discrimination of the Myanmar government against the Rohingya people throughout his career.

He is currently serving as a board member of the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) and a founding member of the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief. He is also the president of the Arakan Institute for Peace and Development (AiPAD).